



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, Two hundred years ago President Thomas Jefferson, with the approval of Congress, launched the Corps of Discovery led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark with instructions to explore the Missouri River and such tributaries as might lead to the Pacific Ocean on the most direct and practicable water route for the purposes of commerce; and

WHEREAS, The expedition was also directed to gather scientific and geographical information, and to encourage peace among any Indian nations encountered; and

WHEREAS, On August 13, 1805, contact was made with the Lemhi Shoshone and good relations were established, as a result of which Chief Cameahwait agreed to assist the Corps in the movement of their goods to his camp situated near the Lemhi River and was later reunited with his sister, Sacajawea, a trusted member of the expedition, who had earlier been stolen by the Minnetares married Toussaint Charbonneau; and

WHEREAS, The Lemhi Shoshone provided the Corps with geographical information, horses, and a guide, Old Toby, for their journey across the Bitterroots to the Clearwater River; and

WHEREAS, On September 20, Captain Clark, who was sent ahead of the main group to search for food, emerged on Weippe Prairie and was greeted by friendly Nez Perce who graciously shared their food supply with these strangers; and

WHEREAS, The Nez Perce provided geographical information, assisted in selecting Canoe Camp and constructing the canoes for the Corps water trip to the Pacific Ocean, and agreed to tend their horses until their return the following year; and

WHEREAS, The Corps of Discovery reentered Idaho near Lewiston on May 5, 1806, and on May 13 established Camp Chopunnish or Long Camp near Kamiah, where the party waited and interacted with the Nez Perce until weather permitted the opening of the Lolo Trail, and on June 29, 1806, with the aid of Nez Perce guides the expedition passed back through Lolo Pass on their way homeward; and

WHEREAS, the Bicentennial Commemoration is intended to rekindle the expedition's spirit of discovery and acclaim the contributions and goodwill of the native peoples met along the way; and

WHEREAS, The Nation is officially commencing the Bicentennial at the historic home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello on January 18, 2003; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Idaho are planning to offer their hospitality to the many visitors expected to visit our historic regions during the Bicentennial years of 2003-2006,

FURTHER, I urge all Idaho citizens of all ethnic origins to foster the bonds of cooperation and friendship that were so evident during the expedition's journey, and to make this a lasting legacy of the Bicentennial.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim January 18, 2003, the beginning of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Idaho, and I urge all citizens to avail themselves of the special opportunities provided during the three-year observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this fourteenth day of January in the year of our Lord two-thousand and three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-seventh and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirteenth.



DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

DEVIN BOURKE
SECRETARY OF STATE